

Baptismal Services for Eight-Year-Old Children of Record

South Weber Utah Stake, Nov 2019

Baptismal services should be simple, brief, and spiritual (please review Handbook 2, Section 20.3). A member of the stake presidency or an assigned high councilor presides over stake baptismal services for 8-year-old children. At least one member of the bishopric from each ward should attend – more if the ward has additional baptismal candidates. The assigned high councilor oversees the planning of the services and the high councilor or an assigned bishopric member conducts. Ward and stake primary leaders help plan the services. Bishopric members should arrive 10-15 minutes early. The baptismal service may include:

- Prelude music.
- A brief welcome by the priesthood leader who is conducting the service.
 - *Acknowledge those on the stand and helping with the music*
- An opening hymn and prayer.
- Introduce baptismal candidates.
 - *One simple way to do this is to have each candidate stand up where they are seated and turn around to face the congregation as they are introduced.*
- One or two short talks on gospel subjects, such as baptism and the Holy Ghost.
 - *Primary leaders, rather than family members, are usually asked to give these talks*
- A musical selection.
- Move to font room.
 - *Remind family members that photos or videos in the hall or outside are encouraged but please not during the baptismal service or confirmation (Handbook 1, Section 16.1.6)*
 - *Excuse one group at a time to follow the candidate to the font room, inform them of the confirmation location (RS Room, Primary Room, Cultural Hall, or to remain in font room)*
 - *Continue reverent music in the chapel*
- Performance of the baptism (bishopric member conducts)
 - *The baptismal candidate and person performing the baptism are invited to sit on the front row*
 - *Welcome family, friends and ward leaders*
 - *Introduce the witnesses and invite them to stand on either side of the font*
 - *Invite young children to reverently move closer to the font, if desired*
 - *Invite the person performing the baptism to enter the font and assist candidate*
 - *Perform the baptism (see Handbook 2, Section 20.3.8).*
 - *After the baptism, excuse the group to reverently move to the next room for the confirmation*
 - *If the last baptism of the day, the person performing the baptism should open the font drain*
- A time of reverence while the people who participated in the baptism change into dry clothes. This could include interlude music or singing of well-known hymns and Primary songs. It could also include a brief gospel presentation by the full-time missionaries for nonmembers who may be present.
- Performance of the confirmation.
 - *A few Melchizedek Priesthood holders (close family members, priesthood leaders and associates) are invited to participate in the circle. Worthiness to participate is discussed in Handbook 2, Section 20.1.2*
 - *The bishopric member stands in the circle next to the person performing the ordinance*
- An opportunity for new converts to bear their testimonies, if desired.
- A closing hymn and prayer.
- Postlude music.